

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Claims 1 – 13: canceled

14. (currently amended) A steering mechanism comprising:

a housing;

a rack, which defines an axial direction and meshes with a pinion; and

a hydraulic servo-drive having a piston/cylinder unit comprising a cylinder, a piston, and a piston rod that extends in said axial direction, ~~wherein said rack is coupled to said cylinder or said piston rod, and wherein said rack and said piston rod are parallel to one another in said axial direction and are spaced from one another in a direction transverse to said axial direction, and wherein the rack is fixedly connected to the cylinder in the axial direction.~~

15. (canceled)

16. (canceled)

17. (canceled) A steering mechanism according to claim 14, wherein said cylinder carries a rotary slide valve.

18. (previously presented) A steering mechanism according to claim 14, wherein free ends of said rack are encased by sleeves that enclose and outwardly seal a movement space of said rack.

19. (previously presented) A steering mechanism according to claim 14, wherein free ends of said rack are encased by sliding sleeves or bellows that are adapted to free a space that is disposed axially adjacent to said rack.

20. (previously presented) A steering mechanism according to claim 14, wherein a modular rotary slide valve is eccentrically secured to a frame that carries said steering mechanism.

21. (canceled)

22. (previously presented) A steering mechanism according to claim 14, which is provided for a vehicle, and wherein said piston rod is mounted so as to be substantially unmovable relative to the vehicle.

23. (previously presented) A steering mechanism according to claim 14, wherein a center take-off for tie rods that are to be actuated by said steering mechanism is secured directly to said cylinder.

24. (currently amended) A steering mechanism according to claim 14, which includes means for supplying hydraulic fluid to end faces of said piston rod for actuating said servo-drive.

25. (previously presented) A steering mechanism according to claim 14, which includes a guide rod, and wherein said guide rod, said rack, and said piston rod are parallel to and axially spaced from one another.

26. (previously presented) A steering mechanism according to claim 14, wherein tie rods are articulated to end faces of said piston rod.